

## **REMARKS**

With this Response, claims 29, 32-34, 37-39, and 42-46 are amended. Applicants respectfully request that claims 31, 36, and 41 be canceled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 29-30, 32-35, 37-40, and 42-46 are pending.

## **REGARDING THE CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Applicants submit that the independent claims include limitations not taught or suggested by the cited references. Additionally, the claims are amended to remove the brackets, which are unprintable characters in issued patents. Thus, Applicants submit that the claim language is consistent with accepted practices.

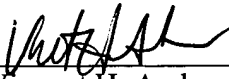
## **CONCLUSION**

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-referenced application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,  
**BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP**

Date: November 15, 2006

  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the below date with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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